

**EMPLOYMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION  
SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES  
6/10/21**

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR MARCUS MCBRIDE, CEO of CareerSource Escarosa- Calls meeting to order at 2:05 PM. Welcomes everyone to committee and introduces himself to group. Marcus says he looking forward to this very important work in assisting the homeless in job placement and training.

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR JESSE WOLFE, Adult Education Program Coordinator at George Stone: Jesse introduced himself and says that this problem isn't going to go away overnight, everyone in this committee has made a one year commitment, and we can make long strides to improving our current situation if we commit and all work together.

KELSEY POWELL, City of Pensacola: Kelsey is charge of community outreach for the City of Pensacola. He helps connect citizens with resources, such as nonprofits, businesses, those in the faith-based community, and more. Here is here to serve everyone and anyone if they need assistance finding out where to go for help. He helps connect neighborhoods and individuals in finding resources.

MCIHELLE COGER, Opening Doors: Michelle is the case manger at Opening Doors of NWFL, they have multiple resources available to assist the homeless and workforce outcomes. Some of them include the rapid rehousing program, street outreach team, bringing meals to those in need, and more. They also have a group that is going out under the bridge, and services to help with getting IDs and birth certificates.

LORI MILKERIS, UWF Veterans Resource Center- Lori is the Director of the UWF Military-Veteran Resource Center. She is also on the Board of Escarosa Suicide Prevention, the Financial Stability Coalition, Bridges out of Poverty, and feels the group is a natural fit, since homelessness is tied into all of these things.

ALLISON: Allison is the Chair of the Legal Services committee and is here assisting Connie with her committee work.

BLAIR: Blair is here to assist with the work of Collective Impact and data collection/communications.

JEFF DYER, Florida West: Jeff is here working with Florida West. He works with business partners to help people have the resources they need for job training.

AVALON MALLORY, 211: Mal is the Resource Manager at 211. 211 is a 24/7 resource and referral line. They have information for courts, REAP and ACTs, food panties, etc., and people can talk with a live human being. They also publish the street survival guide with help of ECSO. They also partner with the Florida Veterans Support Line, which is an ancillary program that they have available for veterans

that is completely manned by veterans. Mal puts together a monthly report each month that contains data of what resources people are looking for. She also has QR code cards for 211 that can take you directly to their database search page. A lot of folks are getting evicted in the upcoming month due to eviction moratorium, so hopefully this can assist them in getting rent resource.

SHERREE TRIPLETT-ROBERTS, Department of Children and Families: Sheree is the Northwest Florida ESS Director at DCF. They provide food stamps, cash, Medicaid, and more specifically, a new program called Care Coordination, where workers are designated to work with patients to volunteer who have been on assistance for up to 21 months, so that they will not return to assistance. They have a group that they have been following where they have now reduced their benefits, and some people are off benefits entirely.

KIM KRUPA, Achieve Escambia: Kim is the Director of Achieve Escambia. She is interested in system change, understanding root causes of poverty and homelessness, is interested in data and how to apply it in ways to affect change.

BOB FOSTER, CALEA: Bob is the Division Manager at CALEA, and heads the Veterans Entrepreneurship Training Program. He is involved in start-ups and vocational training programs. Bob works with Gulf Coast Veterans Advocacy Council with a focus on raising capital in workforce education. Bob was present via ZOOM.

BRIAN WYER- Gulf Coast Minority Chamber of Commerce: Brian is the Director of the Minority Chamber. He is involved in several nonprofits and government boards. Brian was present via ZOOM.

GINGER MADDEN, State Attorney. Ginger is present via ZOOM with her colleague named BRIDGETTE from the State Attorney's office. Ginger is our new State Attorney.

PATRICIA D., Early Learning Coalition: Patricia was present via Zoom on behalf of ELC, says that ELC is trying to connect different agencies to help families in the best way possible. Vicki Pugh is on the roster as their current representative.

THOMAS ROLLINS, George Stone- Thomas was present via Zoom as a second representative from George Stone. He is Jesse's boss.

TODD THOMPSON, Pensacola Chamber: Todd is the CEO of the Pensacola Chamber. Todd says that this is an issue that affects both ends of the spectrum and he wants to be a part of a community-wide solution, and wants to engage our businesses.

ALEX SMITH, Intern with City of Pensacola: Alex is interning with Kelsey Powell at the Mayor's office and is attending as a guest.

JOHN JOHNSON, TASK FORCE CO-CHAIN: John asks, how many of you have ever been homeless? There is a stereotype that when homeless, you simply need to get a job. There are many factors that people need to obtain before one can simply just get a job, such as getting an ID card, having transportation, clothing, housing, etc. It is a very complex issue that we need to take a deeper dive into. He doesn't think that there is anyone here that isn't impacted by this issue. Whether it's impacted your business, social services, the nonprofit sector etc....it affects you and impacts you. His organization is there to support the work of the task force in any way that they can with real-time resources. This is a community that really cares about the homeless community, and people really want to help. We might think that the greatest population of homeless is men but its actually kids and families.

MARCUS: It's very important to remember that the majority of homeless people are kids. I did not experience the level of homelessness that we have here in Pensacola back where I moved from. When driving in my car, one of my nieces said, upon seeing a homeless person, "They need to get a job!" and my other niece said "We should give them money."

*ACTION ITEM: Who is missing from the roster, who needs to be at the table?*

MARCUS: Let's get to a place where we need to be intentional to see where to work together in this workforce arena, so we can make systemic changes. We are talking about how to begin to have access to this population in terms of obtaining GED, education, and training to people so that hopefully they can end up in a high demand career.

JESSE: Jesse manages something called the adult family literacy grant, one of their programs is called "IET." They plan to target EMTs, Firefighters, and EMT/FF combos. They will partner with Marcus' organization, which will provide funding for that program. They could do this for less than \$100 per person, and if we get others to contribute we could eliminate the cost in general.

*ACTION ITEM: Is there any way to eliminate this cost at all with other sponsors or contributors?*

LORI: Lori says that a law was just passed that states that if you haven't been to school in 5 years, you can get a free class (this is statewide) and every class after that is 25% off. She will send the info to the chair.

*ACTION ITEM: Get info from Lori on this Free Class/25% off program*

ALLISON: We need to see whose missing from the roster, as well as what people are doing elsewhere in other communities, and take note of best practices and worst practices.

JOHN: We are very fortunate to have the president of the chambers and the CEO of CareerSource Escarosa here today.

KIM: Kim suggests that we should have an actual homeless person in the group so that we can get their perspective.

JOHN: What can be leveraged from this committee? Is there a partnership that can be formed- where we can go after dollars to help others? We should be able to lean into the wisdom of those in this group, and look to the chambers to identify second-chance employers and leverage bond-dollars at CareerSource.

JESSE: Anyone in our foster care system is eligible to get free education, however, they need layers of support. How can we help support that system?

ALLISON: One example of how we can support, would be partnering the foster family with a faith-based organization or church so they can get their support. We can create a lifeline of progress for people so they can be self-sufficient and productive.

*ACTION ITEM: Is there a way to partner foster care families with faith-based organizations?*

MARCUS: Right now the competition is for employers, not employees. We are in a job seeker market, but some people are not ready to take advantage of that. That doesn't mean we don't have the resources to help them take advantage of the basics like shower, food, etc.

*ACTION ITEM: Think about whom else needs to come to the table and shoot Connie an email so they can be added.*

*:::GROUP REVIEWS THE ROSTER:::*

KIM: There are so many youth that don't use their tuition benefits; she believes the data is that 93% don't use it, and we are worst area around for that. There are many factors that play into this, from credit checks to clothing. Very few businesses are willing to hire disadvantages populations. When you required permanent background checks, it can become really difficult.

SHEREE: Since we started the Care Coordination program in Access Florida, and we started directly asking "What is your barrier?" and doing an assessment, what we've seen is that that barriers include 1.) Mental health 2.) Children's mental health 3.) Childcare. She had an experience with one homeless man who lived in the woods who simply didn't know where to go, until one person told him where the DCF office was. She really believes in this program for DCF, it really has moved the needle because it's much more than just giving out benefits.

MARCUS: Sheree makes a good point, that one of the main factors that determines eligibility is having an ID.

ALLISON: If you guys were to say a barrier would be criminal records, for example, we could work with Legal Services committee to help remove some of these barriers.

JOHN: We need to think outside of the box. At the Hollice Williams bridge, we take the services to the homeless instead of making them come to us...we have asked other agencies to meet us there as well. Now other agencies are meeting them where they are.

KIM: Is Marcus going to go set up under the bridge and provide job hiring services to the homeless?

MARCUS: We are probably not going to do that, because the end product wouldn't warrant the outcomes to the business community, as these people's basic needs would still not be being met.

KIM: We have seen some isolated successes like the SOAR program or Care Coordination.

JEFF: Employers are more flexible in their hiring standards because they have to be, as they want staff. Two years ago they wouldn't have looked at these people, but now they are. We are working with our underserved populations, we do have some data with our workforce mapping and what is available in our community. Marcus wants to get people hired at any moment, don't think you can't have a conversation with an employer, and it never hurts to ask the question if they're willing to take a chance.

ALLISON: We are going to be doing an outreach/communication campaign with the community, to see how employers perhaps can be a part of this.

TODD: Todd would recommend a state legislator or someone from their staff to be a part of this committee.

MAL: We should pull Vocational Rehabilitation.

ALLISON: We can also have people come in make presentation if they can't dedicate the time for the one-year commitment.

KIM: Kim just wants a story and to know what it's like to experience this, we should hear someone who has lived this to help ground the committee.

JEFF: Jeff suggests that Pensacola SHERM might be good to add to the group. Jeff has an asset map/data related to poverty and demographics to add to the community that he can share.

MARCUS: We should all bring something back as best practice going forward to we can be intentional about our efforts going forward.  
We should definitely have voc. rehab and immigration, as this is a humanity issue, PSC, Children's Home Society, Landrum/Temp service, SHERM (Randy Ardis)

***ACTION ITEM: Everyone bring a best practice to the next meeting!***

JEFF: We definitely need to think about gainful employment for families as the ultimate hierarchy.

JESSE: We need to cast a wide net, and try to catch as many people as possible.

KIM: We need to not only map assets but also barriers to those assets.

ALLISON: To be able to employ the homeless in the building the houses for the homeless would be amazing.

JOHN: Thank you all for being here and thanks chairs and presidents of chambers for being here.

MEETING ADJOURNED 3:25 PM

### **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/FOLLOW UP**

#### **POTENTIAL SURVEY QUESTIONS:**

**What** kind of workforce services does your organization provide?

- Training
- Education
- Resumes
- IDs
- Clothing
- Etc

**Where** are your services offered?

Do you offer pick-up?

Do you offer delivery/mobile outreach?

Escambia/Santa Rosa

**Who** do you provide services for?

(Men, women, teens, youth, vets)

Are these services available **now**, and if not, **when** will become available?

What do you need in order for them to become available?

Are there any **eligibility requirements** necessary in order to be approved for your services?

Income

Job Requirements

Citizenship Requirements

Down Payments

Financial Requirements

Sobriety/Program Completion

ID Card

What is your mission statement...**why** are you a member of this task force?